

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN JUNE 1999

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in June 1999 increased slightly more than 1% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Annualized year-to-date production was 41.7 million metric tons, which was 5% lower than the total production in 1998.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for June, decreased 13% from the prior month, at 3.4 million tons. Annualized year-to-date sales or use was 43.0 million tons, about 1% lower than the total for 1998.

U.S. producer ending stocks for June were 4% higher than the figure shown in May.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census; total U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 150,000 tons per month, or 1.8 million tons per year. June import data were not available at the time of publication.

Annualized domestic consumption for 1999 was calculated to be 44.8 million tons using annualized sold and used data and estimated trade data. Apparent domestic consumption for 1998, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, was 45.0 million tons.

IMC-Agrico Co. temporarily suspended diammonium phosphate production at its Taft, LA, plant effective July 3. According to the company, the shutdown was attributed to the seasonal slowdown in demand following the domestic planting season. A restart date was not announced (Green Markets, 1999).

Reference Cited

Green Markets, 1999, IMC-Agrico to shutdown Taft, La., phosphate plant; market takes note of DAP supply landscape: Green Markets, v. 23, no. 23, June 7, p.1.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
United States:			
1998:			
June	3,960	3,670	7,570
July	3,830	3,820	7,560
August	3,980	3,750	7,740
September	3,530	3,340	7,940
October	3,800	3,870	7,850
November	3,680	3,510	8,050
December	3,480	3,530	7,920
January - December	44,100	43,400	XX
1999:			
January	3,410	3,400	7,730
February	3,070	3,190	7,600
March	3,500	3,710	7,340
April	3,280	3,640	6,880
May	3,680	3,940	6,620
June	3,730	3,420	6,890
Total	20,700	21,300	XX
Florida and North Carolina:			
1998:			
June	3,310	3,160	6,250
July	3,200	3,270	6,160
August	3,310	3,310	6,120
September	3,080	2,850	6,360
October	3,370	3,320	6,380
November	3,360	3,130	6,660
December	3,110	3,130	6,540
January - December	38,600	37,800	XX
1999:			
January	2,970	2,990	6,420
February	2,760	2,840	6,330
March	3,120	3,290	6,100
April	2,780	3,150	5,620
May	3,100	3,340	5,380
June	3,030	2,940	5,430
Total	17,800	18,600	XX
Idaho and Utah:			
1998:			
June	649	505	1,320
July	634	551	1,400
August	663	441	1,620
September	456	494	1,590
October	434	555	1,460
November	312	384	1,390
December	368	403	1,380
January - December	5,490	5,670	XX
1999:			
January	436	413	1,310
February	314	352	1,280
March	375	412	1,240
April	499	483	1,260
May	582	604	1,240
June	706	481	1,460
Total	2,910	2,750	XX

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/ 3/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
1998:		
May	132	7,570
June	--	--
July	61	3,750
August	65	3,930
September	62	3,440
October	78	5,530
November	--	--
December	62	3,800
January - December	806	42,400
Total year 4/	<u>1,760</u>	<u>92,700</u>
1999:		
January	60	3,280
February	63	3,420
March	68	3,670
April	66	4,000
May	69	4,110
Total	<u>326</u>	<u>18,500</u>

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

4/ Includes estimate for data suppressed by Bureau of the Census.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	1997	1998	1999 1/
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	39.8	38.7	35.9
Idaho and Utah	6.1	5.5	5.9
Total 2/	<u>45.9</u>	<u>44.2</u>	<u>41.7</u>
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	36.6	38.0	37.5
Idaho and Utah	5.5	5.6	5.5
Total 2/	<u>42.1</u>	<u>43.7</u>	<u>43.0</u>
Yearend stocks	7.9	7.9	6.9
Exports	W	W	W
Average value per ton	\$34.80	\$42.70	\$43.33
Imports for consumption e/	1.8	1.8	1.8
Average value per ton	\$50.19	\$52.66	NA
Apparent consumption e/ 3/	43.6	45.0	44.8

e/ Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Annualized data.

2/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

3/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports, where imports are estimated to average about 150,000 tons per month.

TABLE 4
MOROCCAN
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS 1/
JANUARY - JUNE 1999

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Australia	93
Austria	65
Belgium	292
Brazil	123
Bulgaria	94
France	457
Germany	65
Greece	142
India	131
Iran	195
Ireland	1
Italy	35
Japan	103
Korea, Republic of	100
Mexico	875
Netherlands	1
New Zealand	181
Pakistan	118
Poland	314
Romania	130
Serbia and Montenegro	137
Spain	1,050
Taiwan	21
Thailand	32
Turkey	16
United States	1,160
Uruguay	5
Venezuela	67
Total	2,870

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to total shown.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates--
Casablanca, Morocco